

CLAIMS:

1. An infant support for an incubator or a warmer or a combination thereof, the support comprising:

5 a support surface for receiving an infant, the support surface having a head end and a foot end;

an elevator coupled to each end of the support surface to raise and lower each end; and

a drive associated with the elevators, the drive comprising a motor coupled to each elevator, and a control for the motors, whereby either end of the support surface may be moved between raised and lowered positions.

2. The support of claim 1, wherein the control comprises a switch operable with a hand to move the support surface between raised and lowered positions.

15 3. The support of claim 1, wherein, as one motor raises the head end, the other motor lowers the foot end.

4. The support of claim 3, wherein, as one motor lowers the head end, the other motor raises the foot end.

5. The support of claim 1, wherein each elevator comprises a rack and the drive comprises a gear coupling each motor to the rack of its associated elevator.

6. An infant support for an incubator or a warmer or a combination thereof, the support comprising:

25 a support surface having a head end and a foot end,
an elevator associated with each of the head end and the foot end,
a drive motor coupled to each elevator, and

a controller coupled to the drive motors, the controller being configured to drive either or both drive motors to raise or lower the support surface or to tilt the support surface between trendelenberg and reverse-trendelenberg positions.

30 7. The support of claim 6, wherein each drive motor is a stepper motor.

8. The support of claim 6, further comprising a switch coupled to the controller to raise or lower the support surface or to tilt the support surface between trendelenberg and reverse-trendelenberg positions.

9. The support surface of claim 6, wherein each drive motor is
5 coupled to its associated elevator by a rack and pinion gear.

10. The support surface of claim 9, wherein each drive motor is coupled to one of the gears.

11. An infant support for use with an incubator or a warmer, the support comprising:

10 a support surface having a head end and a foot end and
a driver engageable with the head and foot ends, the driver comprising a first elevator and a second elevator, the first elevator being engageable with the head end, and the second elevator being engageable with the foot end, wherein the driver is
movable to cause the head and foot ends to move between raised and lowered
15 positions.

12. The support of claim 11, wherein the driver is a reciprocating driver that is movable in first and second directions.

13. The support of claim 12, wherein the head end moves between raised and lowered positions when the driver moves in the first direction.

20 14. The support of claim 11, wherein the foot end moves between raised and lowered positions when the driver moves in the second direction.

15. The support of claim 14, wherein, as the driver moves in the first direction, the head end moves to the raised position, and, when the driver moves in the second direction, the foot end moves to the raised position.

25 16. The support of claim 15, wherein, as the driver moves in the second direction, the head end of the surface moves to the lowered position, and, when the driver moves in the first direction, the foot end of the surface moves to the lowered position.

17. An infant support for an incubator or a warmer or a
30 combination thereof, the support comprising:

a support surface having a head end and a foot end;

first and second elevators movable between raised and lowered positions, and coupled to the head end and the foot end, respectively;

a driver movable in first and second directions; and

first and second drive plate mechanisms, each drive plate mechanism
5 being coupled to the driver, the first drive plate mechanism being configured to move the first elevator to the raised position when the driver is moved in the first direction, and the second drive plate mechanism being configured to move the second elevator to the raised position when the driver is moved in the second direction.

18. The support of claim 17, wherein the first and second drive
10 plate mechanisms each comprise a drive plate having an outwardly extending member and a driven plate having a corresponding outwardly extending member.

19. The support of claim 18, wherein each member of each drive
plate is selectively engageable with each corresponding member of each driven plate of the first and second drive plate mechanisms for moving the corresponding first and
15 second elevators between the raised and lowered positions.

20. The support of claim 19, wherein, as the driver moves in the first direction, the drive plate of the first drive plate mechanism engages the corresponding driven plate for moving the first elevator to the raised position.

21. The support of claim 20, wherein, as the driver moves in the
20 first direction, the drive plate of the second drive plate mechanism does not engage the corresponding driven plate.

22. The support of claim 20, wherein, as the driver moves in the second direction, the drive plate of the second drive plate mechanism engages the corresponding driven plate for moving the second elevator to the raised position.

23. The support of claim 22, wherein, as the driver moves in the
25 second direction, the drive plate of the first drive plate mechanism does not engage the corresponding driven plate.

24. The support of claim 17, further comprising a first lifting mechanism coupled to the first elevator and the first drive plate mechanism and a
30 second lifting mechanism coupled to the second elevator and the second drive plate mechanism, each lifting mechanism comprising a plurality of spools and a belt coupled to the spools and the respective elevator, one of the spools being coupled to

the respective drive plate mechanism to move the respective elevator between raised and lowered positions.

25. An infant support for an incubator or a warmer or combination thereof, the support comprising:

5 a support surface mounted for movement from a level position to a trendelenberg position and to a reverse-trendelenberg position; and

at least one pivot member configured to move the support surface from the level position to either of the trendelenberg position or the reverse-trendelenberg position.

10 26. The support of claim 25, wherein the pivot member has a pair of angularly spaced pivot arms, each arm having a distal end engageable with the support surface.

27. The support of claim 25, wherein the support surface has a head end and a foot end.

15 28. The support of claim 27, wherein the head end is movable between raised and lowered positions as the foot end is maintained in the lowered position.

29. The support of claim 27, wherein the foot end is movable between raised and lowered positions as the head end is maintained in the lowered position.

20 30. The support of claim 26, further comprising a movable member coupled to the pivot member and a bi-directional actuator configured to move the pivot member.

25 31. The support of claim 30, wherein the actuator is a bi-directional hand crank.

32. The support of claim 30, wherein the pivot member includes a third arm extending therefrom and engageable with the movable member for moving the pivot member.

30 33. An incubator or warmer having an infant support surface-lifting apparatus for moving an infant between trendelenberg and reverse-trendelenberg positions, the apparatus comprising:

a support surface for supporting the infant;

a driver;

a pivot member having a vertex and a pair of angularly extending arms, the pivot member being pivotal at the vertex and movably coupled to the driver such that each of the arms is engageable with the support surface; and

5 an actuator coupled to the driver for moving the arms.

34. An incubator or warmer having a surface for supporting an infant movable between trendelenberg and reverse-trendelenberg positions, the incubator comprising:

means for engaging the surface; and

10 single means for moving the means for engaging the surface between trendelenberg and reverse-trendelenberg positions.

35. An infant support for an incubator or a warmer, the support having a head end and a foot end, a lift mechanism for raising and lowering each end, the mechanism comprising:

15 a head end elevator and a foot end elevator, each elevator being mounted for movement upwardly or downwardly, the infant support being mounted on the elevators,

a driver,

a controller for the driver,

20 a selector switch for operating the controller, and

the elevators being operatively connected to the driver such that either elevator can be raised and lowered by the driver without raising or lowering the other elevator, and such that both elevators can be simultaneously raised and simultaneously lowered.

25 36. An infant support for an incubator or warmer, the support comprising:

a base,

a support surface supported above the base for movement relative to the base between an elevated position and a lowered position,

30 a drive assembly operably coupled to the support surface and configured to move the support surface between the elevated position and the lowered position to tilt the support surface between trendelenberg and reverse trendelenberg

positions, the drive assembly comprising at least one electric motor and mechanism coupling the motor to the support surface, and

a controller selectively operable to actuate the drive assembly.